

## **Town Meeting Coordinating Committee**

Meeting of Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Town Hall, Diana Romer Room

**Attendance:** Adrienne Terrizzi, Mary Streeter, Rob Crowner, Nonny Burack, Peggy Roberts, Harry Brooks; absent: Carol Gray.

**1. Call to order:** Peggy calls the meeting to order at 3:56pm.

**2. Electronic voting:** The committee briefly recaps its previous deliberations regarding electronic voting. The consensus is against pursuing its use at this time, but it is not a “dead issue”; the committee will continue to monitor the development and price of the technology and may reconsider it in the future. Harry moves, Nonny seconds, and the committee votes unanimously to not instigate the purchase of an electronic voting system now, but leave the matter open for review in the future. Peggy will convey the committee’s vote to Harrison Gregg and to Kris Pacunas in order to inform Kris’s capital request to the JCPC. He may yet proceed with it, but any use of the system by Town Meeting would require a bylaw amendment.

**3. Winter projects:** Mary states that the Town Meeting materials on reserve at the Jones Library need to be inventoried to confirm that what is listed on the TMCC webpage is accurate. This may not have been done since Jodi Simpson was a member of the committee. Adrienne suggests that someone might be designated the Town Meeting archivist, and Peggy notes that such a person need not be a member of TMCC.

**4. Planning for Annual Town Meeting:** Adrienne asks if there is a timeline and checklist of tasks associated with planning for a Town Meeting. Peggy states that members have become accustomed to performing certain tasks, and has asked for written reports from those in that position to write a complete description of what they do so that someone else could step in and do it.

Warrant review: Peggy states that she has been alerting town staff and committee chairs who may have articles on the warrant of the date for the warrant review so that they can set it aside on their calendars. Nonny will assist Peggy, along with a representative of the League of Women Voters, in organizing the warrant review.

Bus tour: The committee speculates on potential sites for a bus tour. Mary states that there are a number of possible CPA-related stops, but Rob states that there probably will not be any site-specific zoning articles. The committee agrees to proceed with plans to hold the tour as scheduled on May 1, which is not ideal because of its proximity to the start of Town Meeting. It will not be videotaped this year by ACTV.

Precinct meetings: The committee discusses the timing and organization of precinct meetings, ultimately deciding to advertise them at this point as occurring between Saturday, April 16 and Saturday, April 30. Left unresolved is whether to encourage each precinct to meet separately, or to continue to bundle them as has been the recent practice. Fewer meetings would increase the likelihood that Planning Board or Finance Committee “experts” would be able to be in attendance at all meetings or that a consistent new member orientation could be conducted in conjunction with the meetings, as is planned. Adrienne and Nonny agree to compile a list of items to be covered in an orientation/welcoming of new members for review by TMCC at a future meeting.

TMCC election: The committee expresses its hope that the TMCC election will be held earlier than it has been recently, while recognizing that uncertainty about the state budget sometimes leads to an inconvenient break in the TM schedule. Adrienne suggests that the committee make a request that the election be held during the third week of TM, May 16 or 18 this year, and Peggy agrees to contact the Town Clerk on behalf of the committee.

**5. Informational forum:** Mary reports that the chair of the Select Board recently noted that she had attended a presentation on form-based code at the Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting; this might be a resource for a possible TMCC forum on this topic. The committee tentatively agrees to hold a forum on form-based code in September.

Regarding a prior forum proposal, on green initiatives at the municipal level, it is noted that the town manager will discuss the town's environmental efforts on WMUA's Focus program on January 30, and the League of Women Voters will be hosting a forum on the town's Climate Action Plan on February 23.

**6. New business:** The committee reflects favorably on its meeting with the town manager in late December. Adrienne notes that ZSC meetings are now being taped, possibly due in part to the town manager's intervention. Mary will email TMCC's petition article fact sheet to the Select Board Office as invited by the town manager, so that it would be available to those planning petition articles.

Nonny reports that postcards were sent to Town Meeting members whose terms are expiring. Orchestrated by Nonny, the Select Board Office received a template by email from Mary, printed the cards, and later mailed them after Nonny, Mary, and Rob addressed them.

**7. Minutes of previous meetings:** Adrienne moves, Mary seconds, and the committee votes 5-0 with one abstention (Harry) to approve the minutes of December 13, 2010. Nonny moves, Harry seconds, and the committee votes 6-0 to approve the minutes of December 21, 2010.

**8. Future meetings:** The committee sets the following meeting schedule for Spring:

- February 1 and February 11 at 2:00 in the Diana Romer Room at Town Hall;
- March 7 and March 21; and April 4, 11, and 25 at 2:00 (room TBA).

**9. Adjournment:** The meeting is adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rob Crowner

Documents provided:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of December 13 and December 21 meetings
3. Town Meeting checklist from the Select Board Office
4. Town Meeting-related events list compiled by Mary for distribution to the listserv